

# CAA News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CENSUS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ♦ MAY 2001

Watch your mail for an announcement of the annual CAA reunion, to be held on Friday, Oct. 5, in the Garden Room at the Andrews AFB Officers Club. We'll enjoy a delicious buffet and a cash bar, with plenty of opportunity to mingle and chat with old friends and coworkers. The cost is a very modest \$15 per person. Spouses and guests are welcome.

## News of Alumni

**Madeleine Lucas** says she has been spending her time relocating from Seattle to Reno. She still has a condo in Seattle and an apartment in New York City, and stays busy traveling from one to another.

**Shelly Rubin** says he and wife Ruth continue to split time among Silver Spring, Delray Beach, and Albuquerque, keeping track of kids and grandkids. They enjoy traveling and cruising as health permits.

**Ty Sturdevant** is still competing in senior games in Florida and running his fastest times. In December he finished second in the 400-meter dash in the Florida State Finals, qualifying for the finals in Baton Rouge. Recently he won a silver medal in the 100 meter dash and gold medals in the 200- and 400-meter dashes. Besides running, Ty says he golfs every day, plays tennis three times a week, and roller-blades every Sunday morning. He's president-elect for the local Men's Club, which provides community health assistance support. He missed the mini-reunion because he was on a Danube River cruise in Austria.

**Donald Starsinic** sent in his dues and said "It's a real bargain." [We agree!] He wanted to know the date of this year's reunion [see note elsewhere], and said he and his wife, Margaret, are considering an extended trip out west in September.

**Barry Cohen** also sent in his dues and said, "We really enjoy receiving the newsletter."

**Oneida Boone** says the newsletter is welcomed each time. She enjoys reading about the whereabouts and activities of other retirees, but says she is saddened to read about so many of our retirees who have died.

**Joyce Dunmore** says she loves being retired. She congratulated the recent Bronze Medal winners, including her former coworkers in DSMD Grace Lee, Agnes Corbett, and Pat Marks. Since her retirement in February 1999, she has visited New York, the DC area, New Orleans, West Virginia (on a train), and the Middle East (2 weeks in Israel, Jordan, and Egypt). She has sung in various productions and venues, including the "Born to Die" cantata, the "Let God Arise" cantata, and Martin Luther King and Black History programs. She also volunteers at Goodwill Industries and keeps up with her hobbies of crocheting, knitting, painting, cooking, and shopping.

**Mary E. Green** has had numerous medical problems in the past few years, but she still stays in close contact with her widespread family members. She had an auto accident in 1998, a fall and a broken wrist in 1999 (which required nearly a year of recuperation), surgery for carpal tunnel syndrome, and has now been diagnosed with osteoarthritis in her knees. None of this kept her from attending a family reunion on Kiawah Island, SC, for a week last August—20 people in two houses! She misses visits to the Washington area, and says hello to her old boss, Frank Boucher.

**Orvin "Pappy" Wilhite** sent along a letter he received from Howard H. Saxton in 1945, while Pappy was in the Army in the Philippines. Saxton reported that there were many new faces at the Census Bureau, including "many negroes and some teachers and high school kids from West Virginia," who had been persuaded by recruiters that "their futures were bright at Suitland." Saxton was a section chief over 20 editors, one of five sections of editors. He said that the enumeration of farms was very poor, with checkers being reluctant to turn the data over to editors. "Field work was handled as a political affair, and many supervisors didn't take the trouble to learn anything about the job," he wrote. He mentioned some of the career staff at that time: Pappy Rea, Barrow, Tom Webb ("who quit in disgust after 45 years"), Farmer McKnight, Gayleard, and Cartner.

## Nominations for the CAA Board Ready

The Nominating Committee, comprising Chuck Waite (chair), Howard Fletcher, Dan Levine, and Bobby Milton, submitted a slate of eight candidates for four positions on the Board of Directors beginning on January 1, 2002. Directors whose terms are expiring are Marie Argana, Elmer Biles, Charlie Jones, and Shirley Jones. Only Shirley Jones agreed to run for a second term. Frank Boucher and Edwin Goldfield agreed to run unopposed for second terms as president and vice president, respectfully.

Ballots and brief biographies of the candidates will be mailed to all paid-up members in July, and results will be reported at the reunion on October 5.

## Is Assisted Living the Right Choice?

If you're considering selling your home and moving into a "continuous care" or "assisted living" facility, go to the library and look up the January 2001 issue of *Consumer Reports* magazine. It contains an exhaustive six-page article on the subject, which spells out cost factors, contract terms, and other things to look for to make sure you get the situation that is best for you and your circumstances.

## Progress on Prostate Cancer Vaccine

An experimental vaccine against prostate cancer, now under development at Johns Hopkins Medical Institution, successfully boosted the immune system in men whose disease had spread throughout their bodies.

"This is a surprising finding and it is very encouraging," said Michael Hamilton, head of the clinical investigation of the National Cancer Institute. "It will need to be documented by other trials, but if it turns out to be effective, vaccinations would be an ideal way to go with most prostate tumors."

Many men who undergo seemingly successful surgery still experience cancer recurrence because a few cancer cells escape and spread the disease. But it can take months to detect these new tumors, during which time radiation and hormone therapy are generally not used.

Researchers said they were astounded to find that every part of the immune system was alerted and turned on by the vaccine. The new vaccine joins a small number of other experimental vaccines for prostate cancer now under study at the National Cancer Institute and elsewhere throughout the

country.

Source: "Healer," *The Washington Post*, Oct. 26, 2000.

## Good Advice

- ✓ Always buy a good bed and a good pair of shoes. If you're not in one, you're in the other.
- ✓ If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

## First CAA Scholarship Winner

The faculty and staff of Suitland High School selected Phylcia Bright as most deserving of this year's \$1,000 CAA scholarship. She is a graduating senior with a nearly 4.0 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society and the French Honor Society.

Ms. Bright hopes to pursue a career in Criminology or Pharmacology. In her application essay, she said she is interested in a career as a pharmacologist or in forensics for the FBI. She is one of five children, and she is grateful for the scholarship to help her during her first year in college.

## Promissory Note Scams

Have you been offered the "opportunity" to purchase promissory notes with the enticement of a high, fixed-rate return—up to 15 or 20 percent—with very little risk? If so, you should be very cautious; most of these deals are scams, and you will be very fortunate if you get your investment back.

In most of these scams, an independent life insurance agent is persuaded to sell promissory notes with lucrative commissions of 20 to 30 percent. The agents are usually not licensed to sell securities, and they rely on information given them by the "company"—which later proves to be false or misleading. Consumers who normally would be cautious may bite on this deal because they know and trust the agent who's selling it. Also, they are told (even in writing) that the notes are guaranteed or insured.

Legitimate corporate promissory notes are not usually sold to the public. You can verify a note's legitimacy by checking the SEC's EDGAR database online at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), or you can call your state's securities regulator. (In DC, call 202-727-8000; in MD, call 410-576-6360; in VA, call 804-371-9051.) Be skeptical if the offeror tells you that the notes are not a security—nearly all promissory notes are, and they must be registered.

## DEATHS

**Merlene Mae Murphy Rayford, 55,** died March 18 of cancer at her Fort Washington, MD, home. She was a 1964 graduate of Suitland High School. Over the years, she worked at the Naval Oceanographic Command, the Air Force, and the Census Bureau doing budget work and analysis. Survivors include her husband of 29 years, Albert L. Rayford, a sister, and her stepfather.

**Paul F. Berard, 75,** died March 1 after a 6+ year battle with multiple myeloma at his home in Leisure World in Silver Spring, MD. He began work at the Census Bureau as a GS-5 statistician in 1950 and retired in 1980 as chief of the metal products branch in Industry Division. He served with the Navy in the Pacific in World War II. In the early 1990s, he taught mathematics at Wor-Wic Community College in Salisbury, MD, and at Salisbury State University. Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Carmela, three sons, two daughters, a brother, a sister, and seven grandchildren.

**Mary Katherine Friday, 58,** died March 17 at Sibley Memorial Hospital after a stroke. She began work at the Census Bureau as a computer programmer and, after 33 years, retired as manager of the technological branch at the International Statistical Programs Center. She was a folk dance and song enthusiast, and she served on the board of the Country Dance and Song Society. Her marriage to Paul Friday ended in divorce. Survivors include three brothers and her mother.

**Florence K. Koons, 81,** died of cancer February 13 at a Palo Alto, CA, hospital. Her initial assignment was at the National Bureau of Standards, from which she was detailed to the Census Bureau in 1951 to write programs for the UNIVAC computer. She was later head of data processing for the Census Bureau and manager of the research branch of the National Center for Health Statistics. She

retired in 1973 as a consultant, and she moved to Sunnyvale, CA, in 1995. She was a charter member of the Association for Computing Machinery. Her husband of 54 years, Walter, died in 2000. Survivors include her son, a sister, and two granddaughters.

**Mary M. Nuckols, 91,** died of cancer January 20 at Civista Medical Center in La Plata, MD. She began her government career in the 1940s with the Census Bureau and later transferred to the IRS. She retired in the 1970s. Her husband, H. Barrett Nuckols, died in 1959. Survivors include a daughter, two sisters, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. **Jerome F. "Jack" Tolson,** husband of Manila Tolson, died December 7. Survivors include a son, three daughters, a brother, 11 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. **Raymond A. Montgomery, 83,** died of prostate cancer January 11 in a nursing home in San Bernardino, CA. He worked at the Census Bureau from 1946 to 1970, where he became a UNIVAC computer systems manager. He moved to Kentucky in 1974 and later to California. Survivors include his wife of 64 years, Louise, four children, three brothers, a sister, 16 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Merlene Mae Murphy Rayford, 55,** died March 18 of cancer at her Fort Washington home. She worked as a project and budget analyst for a variety of federal agencies, including the Census Bureau. Survivors include her husband, Albert, a sister, and her stepfather.

**John Adams** died of complications from diabetes and heart ailments December 16 at his home in Napa, CA. He served overseas almost his entire career with the Census Bureau's international programs as a data processing advisor, from the 1960s through the 1980s, in Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, he starred in a Bengali movie, "The Father."

adopted two Bangladeshi sons, who currently live in Napa. After his retirement, he usually spent a few months each year in his beloved Nepal, and had been there just prior to his death. Don Larson says, "To those of us who knew John, he was one of a kind and will be missed."

**Edna Mae "Polly" Reynolds**, 79, died January 9 at an assisted living home in Waldorf, MD, as reported by Geneva Spence and Virginia Christie. After Polly retired from one of the Census Bureau's statistical divisions, she took care of an invalid sister. When her own health began to fail, her daughter Martha Rose, known to all as "Skip," stepped in to help. Then Skip's health began failing. Polly's ailing sister died December 6, Polly died January 9, and Skip died February 12—all within a span of three months. Polly's immediate survivors include five sons.

**Richard M. Scammon**, 85, who served as Director of the Census Bureau from 1961 through 1964, died April 27 in Gaithersburg, MD. He had Alzheimer's disease.

During Scammon's tenure at the Bureau, he was a personal adviser to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson on public opinion and political trends. He was the founder and director of the Elections Research Center from 1955 until it closed in 1995. From 1965 to 1989, he also was a senior consultant to NBC News.

In 1966, Scammon and Ben Wattenberg collaborated on a book, *This USA: An Unexpected Family Portrait of 194,067,296 Americans Drawn from the Census*. The book forecast "that the United States is entering a Golden Age, that we have achieved a better America."

Scammon may be best remembered for a book he wrote with Wattenberg in 1970 called *The Real Majority*. It warned the Democratic Party that it was courting disaster with its growing lack of attention to the concerns of Middle America, and that to remain the majority party it would have to address social issues such as crime and busing.

Various publications and columnists called Scammon "an established expert, possibly THE expert, on elections"; "a one-man think tank"; and "one of only two people in this country who can really read political numbers" (the other was Michael Barone). He was a member of the American Political Science Association, the American Academy of

Political and Social Science, the American Academy of Political Sciences, and the Cosmos Club.

Survivors include his wife of 49 years, Mary, a daughter, and a sister.

## Gentler Way to Spot Blocked Arteries

The FDA recently approved a new, noninvasive procedure to diagnose arteries obstructed with plaque. It's called ultrafast CT, and it can be used in place of angiography, which involves threading a tiny catheter through the body and into the heart. The new procedure involves practically no risk and no discomfort.

## What Happened to Census and You?

Those of you who had, or wanted, subscriptions to *Census and You* should know that publication was suspended last year. The editor, Neil Tillman—who has been reassigned to other duties—tells us that Census 2000 budget and manpower considerations were behind the suspension and that, at this point, he isn't sure when or if publication will resume.

This space was reserved for submissions from alumni describing where they are, what they're doing, and how they're getting along. Unfortunately, that material didn't arrive, so we have some blank space.

Please send us your news, other readers really want to know what you're up to. It doesn't have to be published—the editor will probably mess it up anyway; but do send it. Don't wait until we have to publish your obituary!

CAA News is published three times a year by the Census Alumni Association; Jerry Mann, editor.

### Deadlines for submissions:

January issue	Dec. 10
May issue	Apr. 10
September issue	Aug. 10

Your contributions are welcome on any subject of interest to former Census Bureau employees, especially news of yourselves and your families. Please send contributions to CAA, P.O. Box 1480, Suitland, MD